GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6870
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005
NEW VENTURES OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal department has agreed to sell mobile phones and BSNL pre-paid cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has given permission to postal circles to take up profitable ventures;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the income earned through such ventures during the last one year;

(f) whether the rural postal Life Insurance Schemes have gained popularity in the country; and

(g) if so, the details of their growth during the last three years, year-wise?

Answer

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Posts sells mobile phones and pre-paid cards of mobile phone companies through post offices on commission basis.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Heads of Postal Circles have been empowered to approve profitable business packages, based on the utilization of the vast retail network of the Department.

(e) Department has earned a revenue of Rs. 50.5 crores in 2004-05 from such ventures.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The details of business growth, during the last 3 years is as under:-

Year	No. of Policies Procured	Sum Assured (Rupees in Lakhs)
2001-2002	3,68,527	1,69,685.41
2002-2003	7,02,542	3,34,794.55
2003-2004	10,83,152	5,94,997.82